



Publication of the
Northern California
Contest Club



September
2003
Issue 376

NCCC Net Thursday 9PM 3830+/-

Next Meeting: September 8 - 6pm schmooze, 6:30 pm dinner, 7:00 pm program

This meeting will be an overture of sights and sounds as four of our very own experts show us how to KB in RTTY. Please **RSVP** your attendance to **Doris Wong (K0BEE)** at dxwong@interlogue.com by no later than Monday, Sept. 8th by 12 noon.

Program Details:

How to KB on RTTY

**Presented by Bryan Preas AC6JT, Mark Aaker K6UFO,
Dean Wood N6DE, and Marc Ziegler W6ZZZ**

Meeting Location: **Tularik Inc.**
1120 Veterans Boulevard
South San Francisco, CA 94080
650.825.7000

Menu: Pizza & Soft Drink - \$7

Please visit <http://www.nccc.cc/meetings.html> for directions and maps to this new meeting location. Take note of the map that indicates where to park and where to enter through the cafeteria in the building marked "Tularik B".

Contest Rumbings

By Alan Maenchen AD6E

The fall season is upon us! Summer is over, and the days are becoming shorter. The BBQ is burned out, and the kids are back in school. All the summer antenna projects are completed. The station is in great working shape, and all you have to do is sit back and wait for SS to start... Yes? No? Hmmm...

Okay, if you need a little more time to put up another dipole (or two), go for it. You can never have enough antennas. If you need some help, post a note on the reflector or give me a phone call. Help is available! You say you don't have a station? Give me a shout, and I'll try to find a station for you to use. No excuses!

Now, on to the fun stuff: Contests! Check out the activity list at the end of this JUG, and see all the things you can do this month. As usual, there are many to choose from. Note the highlighted events! The annual big-time warm-up for SS is only four weeks away. Are you ready to take on a pile-up? I know I'm preaching to the choir here, but there are only two things I ask: make a bunch of QSOs, and send in your log.

Thanks to the CQP publicity team of N6DE and W6ZZZ, last year was a super success. Dean and Marc are improving upon that even more by getting the word out to all, with an emphasis on getting additional club participation. A big 'thank you' to both of you!

Please send N6TV your CQP plans NOW (n6tv@kkn.net). Bob needs to know which counties will be on the air or more specifically, which counties need last-minute mobile or expedition help to make sure they are radio-active. The county activity list is at <http://www.cqp.org/Counties-Plan-2003.html>

CQP is by far the biggest and best state QSO party. If you haven't tried it recently, you've been missing a lot of fun. There will be several mobiles roaming from county to county. K6AQL has been the big mobile for the past few years. K0DI and K0KTZ have made this a real art form. You can see by the photo below why they do so well. Low power lines must be a problem.



Remote hilltop QTH in Yolo County



K6AQL – top mobile – top heavy?



50 ft TV mast on Lassen/Plumas County line

My personal goal for the past several years has been to do S/O county expeditions. This combines a fun contest with camping...sometimes in the extreme. Having a good off-road car that can carry a LOT of junk is a big help. My planning and packing consists of throwing stuff into the car until I can't put any more. Then it must be time to go.

I've figured out the optimum antenna configuration that I can actually install by myself with no help. This consists of a single 50 foot TV mast (shown above) located as near as possible to a nice drop off to the east. Using the orchard ladder, I attach a small A3 tribander as high as I can reach which is only about 17 feet. I've tried to push up this light antenna to 20 or 30 feet, but I just can't do that by myself. However, with the drop off to

the east, its effective height is good enough. Before the yagi goes up, I hoist a single coax with both an 80 and 40 dipoles to the top and stretch them out as inverted Vees. At that height, the SWR is a reasonable 1.6 or so.

At this point, I'm ready to go on all bands. However, I can make it better. I set up a second 50 foot TV mast about 60 feet to the west of the first one and hoist up an 80-meter reflector. Using pulleys, I raise a rope between the tops of the two masts. The rope carries a 40-meter reflector wire at the mid point. Amazingly, the feed line SWR drops to about 1.1 on both bands since the reflectors drop the antenna impedance down to 50 ohms. Of course, the 80 antenna is tuned for CW only. To solve that problem, I pull up a second 80 meter dipole cut for SSB and lay it east-west so it won't interfere with the CW antenna. Now I'm really ready to go. How many people have a full-size 80-meter yagi? If I set this up on the edge of a cliff, or at least with a nice down slope to the east, this system works amazingly well.

Contest Calendar for September

All Asian DX Contest, SSB	Sep 6- 7	
Quick PSK63 Contest	Sep 6	http://www.qsl.net/kh6ty/psk63/
SOC Marathon Sprint	Sep 7	http://www.hal-pc.org/~kg5u/
North American Sprint, CW	Sep 7	http://www.ncjweb.com
YLRL Howdy Days	Sep 10-12	http://www.qsl.net/ylrl/
WAE DX Contest, SSB	Sep 13-14	www.darc.de/referate/dx/fgd.htm
Louisiana QSO Party	Sep 13-14	www.tchams.org/users/contest/laqp/
ARRL VHF QSO Party	Sep 13-15	http://www.arrl.org/contest
North American Sprint, SSB	Sep 14	http://www.ncjweb.com
FISTS Coast to Coast Contest	Sep 14	http://www.fists.org/
Tennessee QSO Party	Sep 14-15	http://www.k4ro.net/tcg/tqp/tqp.htm
ARRL 10 GHz Contest	Sep 20-21	http://www.arrl.org/contest
Scandinavian Activity Contest, CW	Sep 20-21	
Collegiate QSO Party	Sep 20-21	http://www.qth.com/collegiate/
South Carolina QSO Party	Sep 20-21	
QRP Afield	Sep 20-21	
Washington State Salmon Run	Sep 20-21	http://www.wwdxc.org/
Panama Anniversary Contest	Sep 21	http://www.radioclubdepanama.org/
Fall QRP Homebrewer Sprint	Sep 22	
CQ/RJ WW DX Contest, RTTY	Sep 27-28	http://www.cq-amateur-radio.com/
Scandinavian Activity Contest, SSB	Sep 27-28	
Texas QSO Party	Sep 27-28	http://www.k5vuu.com
Alabama QSO Party	Sep 27	http://web.dbtech.net/~dxcc/
TARA PSK31 Rumble	Oct 4-5	http://www.qsl.net/wm2u/psk31.html
Oceania DX Contest, Phone	Oct 4-5	http://www.oceaniadxcontest.com/
California QSO Party	Oct 4-5	http://www.cqp.org
QCWA QSO Party	Oct 4-5	http://www.qcwa.org/
ARRL Sweepstakes Contest CW	Nov 1-3	http://www.nccc.cc/members/
ARRL Sweepstakes Contest SSB	Nov 15-17	http://www.nccc.cc/members/

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